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ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION OF SHEEP IN BULGARIA

In the last 3 or 4 years, mass artificial insemination of sheep has been conducted in Bulgaria, and the results have been satisfactory. At 157 insemination centers, 103,000 sheep were artificially inseminated in 1948; in 1949, 264,000 at 303 centers; in 1950, 547,000 at 500 centers; and for 1951 it is expected that about one tenth of the total number of sheep in the counts, will be artificially inseminated.

In spite of the difficulties previously encountered, such as the mistrust of farmers towards artificial insemination, lack of sufficiently trained technical personnel, insufficient number of pedigreed rams, poor condition of sheep due to droughts, and extremely poor and unsanitary premises at the insemination centers, very good results have been obtained in many of the centers.

The plan for artificial insemination of sheep in 1950 was fulfilled as follows, in percentages, by the following okoliyas: Razlog, 96; Sevlievo, 97; Khashovo, 96; Berkovitsa, 94; Pirdop, 94; Kazanluk, 93; and Breznik, 98. At certain points, such as the "Yanko Zabunov" State Farm and at Slatina, Lovech Okoliya, more than 99 percent of the sheep were artificially inseminated /In 1950/.

However, the following okoliyas achieved low fertility results through artificial insemination: Kubrat, 70 percent; Mikhaylovgrad, 73; Petrich, 73; Burgas, 74; and Popovo, 78. This is due to a number of weaknesses. During the past year there was a delay in many okoliyas in opening up insemination centers, and these were opened at inappropriate localities. Insemination was performed under extremely unsatisfactory conditions, such as in old dilapidated and abandoned huts with inadequate equipment. The ewes and rams had not been properly prepared. The informational campaign among the farmers was very inadequate. Veterinarians and technicians did not exercise adequate supervision over the work of the technical personnel.

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